# Weekly Great Lakes Water Levels Update for August 3, 2001

**Recent Weather**: For much of late July, clusters of showers and storms developed across the U.S. northern plains into the southern Canadian provinces and moved eastward across the northern fringe of the Great Lakes. To the south of that track, hot, humid conditions prevailed again this week with only small areas of heavy rain. Some locations received enough rain late in the month to avoid record low rainfall for July. Drought conditions have generally worsened across the eastern Great Lakes.

**Current Lake Levels:** Lake Superior's water level is currently 7 inches below its long-term August average. Because of the recent dry conditions, the lakes Michigan-Huron water level has declined by about 2 inches in July and remains 2 feet below average. Lakes St. Clair and Erie are declining and are 10 and 11 inches below their average August levels, respectively. Lake Ontario's level is at its long-term average and is beginning to decline.

**Current Outflows / Channel Conditions:** The Lake Superior outflow through the St. Marys River into Lake Huron is slightly below average for August. Because of continuing low levels on the middle lakes, flows in the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers are expected to remain below average through the remainder of the summer. Flows into the Niagara River from Lake Erie also should be below average for the remainder of the summer. Lake Ontario outflows into the St. Lawrence River are currently about 10% below average.

**Temperature/Precipitation Outlook:** The heat and humidity is expected to last into early next week before a change in the upper-air flows occurs. Temperatures will return to more seasonal levels across much of the Great Lakes by the middle of next week, with scattered showers a greater likelihood. A return to the trend of above normal temperatures and the below normal rainfall for the region is expected by mid-August.

**Forecasted Water Levels:** The water level of Lake Superior is expected to remain nearly steady through into September. Lakes Michigan-Huron are anticipated slowly decline through the month. Lake Ontario levels should decline over the next four weeks by approximately 5 inches. Lakes St. Clair and Erie are expected to see a decline of at least 8 inches from now through late September when most recreational boating ceases.

**Alerts:** Users of the Great Lakes, connecting channels and St. Lawrence River should keep informed of current conditions before undertaking any activities that could be affected by low water. Mariners should possess navigation charts and refer to current water level gage readings.

**Further Information:** Please visit the following web sites for more detailed information:
http://www.great-lakes.net/envt/water/levels/hydro.html
http://huron.lre.usace.army.mil/levels/hmpglv.html
http://www.ijc.org
http://huron.lre.usace.army.mil/ijc/superior.html
http://www.islrbc.org/

# WATER LEVELS OF THE GREAT LAKES
# WEEKLY DATA SUMMARY

FORECASTED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O.BOX 1027
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231
(313) 226-6443

RECORDED DATA (1918-PRESENT)
PROVIDED BY:
NOAA, NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
SSMC4 STATION 7523
1305 EAST-WEST HIGHWAY
SILVER SPRING, MD 20910-3233
(301) 713-2902

| | SUPERIOR | MICH-HURON | ST. CLAIR | ERIE | ONTARIO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Expected water level for August 3, 2001 (feet) | 601.61 | 577.53 | 573.69 | 570.83 | 245.73 |
| Chart datum (feet) | 601.1 | 577.5 | 572.3 | 569.2 | 243.3 |
| Difference from chart datum (inches) | + 6 | 0 | + 17 | + 20 | + 29 |
| Difference from last month (inches) | + 1 | - 2 | - 2 | - 3 | - 4 |
| Difference from last year (inches) | + 2 | - 4 | - 10 | - 11 | - 9 |

**ALL DATA SHOWN IN THIS SUMMARY IN IGLD 1985**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Difference from long-term monthly average level for August (inches) | - 7 | - 23 | - 12 | - 11 | + 1 |
| Difference from highest recorded monthly mean level for August (inches) | - 19 (1952) | - 54 (1986) | - 41 (1986) | - 37 (1986) | - 27 (1947) |
| Difference from lowest recorded monthly mean level for August (inches) | + 14 (1926) | + 10 (1964) | + 18 (1934) | + 22 (1934) | + 35 (1934) |
| **Projected change in levels by September 3, 2001 (inches)** | **0** | **- 1** | **- 3** | **- 4** | **- 5** |